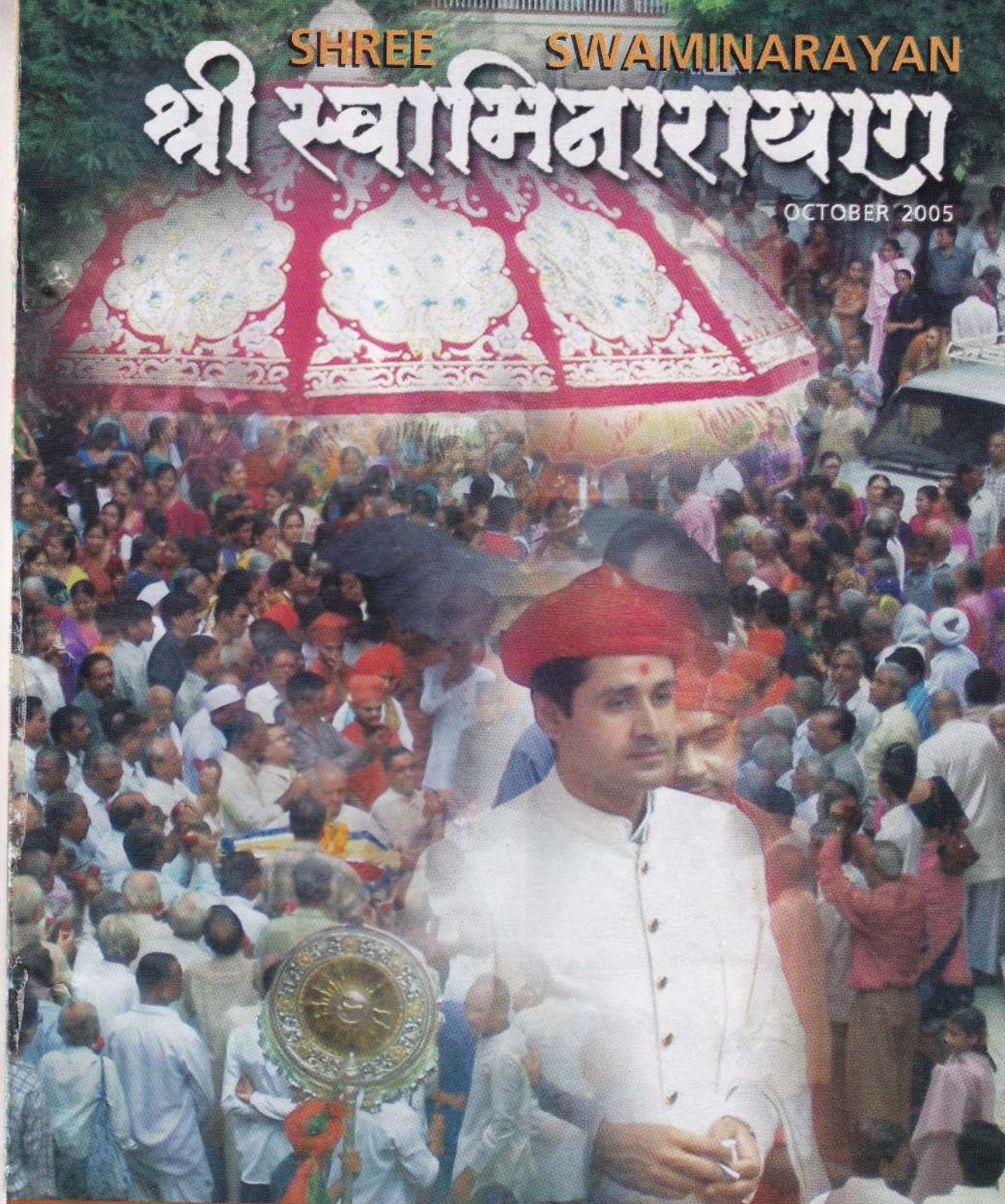
SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

OCTOBER 2005



પ્રકાશકઃ- શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧ Publisher:- Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad-1



Lord Narnarayandev, Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj and Shri Radhakrishnadev at our temple in Colonia (ISSO, U.S.A.)



Scholar Reader-priest Yogendrabhai Bhatt delivers religious discourses at the Colonia Temple (USA)



The Invocation-procession organized by our new temple at Colonia (USA)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Lord Thakorji led a colourful religious procession at Colonai (USA)



Devout listeners at the Patotsava Parayan organized at Bolton Temple (U.K.)





H.H. Acharya Maharajshri executes his sacred resolute. The temple buildings are ready for the invocation ferstivities. (Oakland, New Zealand – ISSO)



Founded in 1998 A.D. By H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

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ENGLISH EDITION
TARUN RAVAL

Editorial & Subscription Address
Shri Swaminarayan
(English)
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, AHMEDABAD-1 (INDIA)

Life time Subscription :
One Year : Rs. 50/-
Inland life time : Rs. 501/-
Overseas life time : Rs. 5000/-
India : @ Rs. 5/-

Published Simultaneously in English, Hindi and Gujarati on 11th of every Month.

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Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

Vol : 8 No : 86 October 2005

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EDITORIAL

God's mercy and plesures are infinite but a soul's aspirations are never to end ! God's pleasures are bountiful, and when He gives. He gives, it in plenty. The worldly souls, though they had desire repeatedly, shall be sorry and afraid on receipt of such bountiful rewards ! and again shall be unhappy and sad if God has not granted their aspiration !

Men did mass prayers and Dhoons and sang devotional songs to please God and presiding deity of rain. Merciful God answered their prayer by showering bountiful rain. All regions and entire country received heavy rain, but the men who had aspired earlier for the rain, were again unhappy for their miserable state – because the rain was in plenty and heavy. We are not happy if it is not raining or raining less and again shall be unhappy if it rained more !

This is human nature. Human mind has no control on its aspirations and desires. Rainy season visits us regularly in its fixed cycle. Rain bestows happiness – universal happiness and pleases mankind, animals, birds and all living beings including trees, plants and shrub ! New year begins with plentiness of rain.

New year means new beginning. Forget past and look forward to enlightening future. Enjoy the pleasures of what you have. New year festival teaches us to forget past by learning a good lesson from it. It teaches us to forget everything by treating yourself as an instrument. Forget what you have attained and achieved. Forget everything. As per the doctrine of Shriji Maharaj, every thing in the world needed to be forgotten – those are destined to be forgot ten and real pleasure rises by such forgetting. If memorized and remembered, it would become a cause of death and birth. It shall be in our favour if we forget wealth, property, children, relatives, fame, power and all other things.

Lord Shriji Maharaj himself dwelled in solitude of Rayan –tree forest of Ganesh Dholka to establishs confirm and reinforce his witness state in His most majestic festivities of invoking Lord Narnarayandev at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur Ahmedabad. Shri Hari lived there in solitude, fighting inner war with his mind and Antahkarana and established witness state of non-doership – detached and pure. Though omniscient supreme God, he acted like a man to preach us a lesson of life. May be a virtuous act or may not be so, but in all such circumstances, it is most benedictory to forget it. If not forgotten, it would become a cause of rebirth, on rememberance of it at the last breath. The soul leaves the body, but desire still exists in form of memory or recollection to cause rebirth of such an unsatisfied soul. Be careful and forget everything. Drain off all the memories of past. Install blissful image of God at the pure seat of your heart and soul. This shall be most benedictory for the devotees of Shri Hari. Human society is most practical. We have fixed the new year day to forget the past of whole year, because man is not at comfort to forget on a daily bases. Forget now wit hthe end of this year and begin your new year with a clean state of mind !

- **Shastri Swami Nirgundas**
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.



Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri

September -2005

15. Graced the house of Shri Rajubhai Baldevbhai patel (Dangarvawala) Thaltej, Ahmedabad.

16. Graced presence at the place of Shri Chandrakant Vallabhai Misri, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.

17. Blissful presence at the place of Shri Shreyasbhai K. Maheta (Advocate), Modasa.

18. Blessed the Satsang Sabha organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Bopal, Ahmedabad.

25. Addressed the 'Youth Satsang Camp' organized at the Swaminarayan Mandir, Approach Bapunagar, by Shri N.N.D.Y.M. of Bapunagar area, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.

Addressed Satsang Sabha held at the Saptapadi Hall, Jodhpuar Cross Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad.

Gracced the house of Shri Jayantibhai K. Thoria.

26. Graced the house of Shri Naranbhai Motibhai Patel, Ghodasar, Ahmedabad.

निजवृत्युद्यमप्राप्त धनधान्यादितश्च तैः ।
अर्प्यो दशांशः कृष्णाय विंशोंऽशस्त्विह दुर्बलैः ॥

They shall donate one tenth of their earnings, money or food grains to Lord Krishna. Those with insufficient income shall offer one twentieth. (Shikshapatri : 147)

Donate only to the holder of a sealed and stamped order of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Lunar eclipse dated 17-10-2005 shall not be observed, as it is not visible to us.

'..... એ લડાઈની વાત બ્રહ્માનંદ જાણે રે .....'

..... AND BRAHMANAND KNOWS ABOUT THAT FIGHT !

- Rasikbhai Golavia

The divine episodes, wherein Shri Kirshna snatches away joyfully the pots of butter and curd from the Gopis, are the most sublime and relishing Bal leelas of Gopikrishna. In his recent incarnation as Shri Hari, Lord Shriji Maharaj has replayed once again the leelas at Gadhpur and Dangarva. Royal Bard Mavdanji sings those leelas of Shri Hari in his sublime poetry of Brahm-Samhita.

At Gadhpur Dhaam, the saints sat forming the rows at the back side of Akshara Oradi. They were having feast meals in proximity of Bhagwan. Shri Hari at his chamber of Akshar Ordi, graced the place and began to serve sweets to the saints. He made them to eat more by serving sweets with enthusiasm of love and affection. Saints too found it most difficult to say no to Shriji Maharaj. They had it beyond their personal capacity. As per convention, curd was the last item in the course of serving. Shri Hari went to the room to take a pot of curd to serve it to the saints. Motiba saw Shri Hari picking up a large pot of curd. She rose in haste and came to Shriji Maharaj to prevent him to take, 'Maharaj wait a little. I will give you a pot,' and she grabbed hurridly the neck of the earthen pot carried by Shri Hari. Holding rim of the pot with Shri Hari, Motiba said, 'Maharaj ! Let me collect cream from the surface of curd. Come on ! Leave it and wait a little,' and tug of war broke between them with pull and push on the rim of the earthen pot. Earthen pot dropped on the floor in such struggle and creamy curd scattered everywhere bathing both of them in the curd. Walls, furniture and floor were covered by curd. It looked like a thick carpet of snow.

Maharaj then took another pot. That too broke in such pull and push. The saints were waiting eagerly at their seats to have fresh creamy curd and on other side Maharaj took a long time in bringing curd. Brahmanand Swami was at the first seat in the row, seeing everything going on in the room. He spoke loudly to himself, "I have lost my curd in that fight between those two." He looked at the saints and said, 'Saints ! Now it is too late to have any more. Better, we move to our inn.' Saints went to their dormitories. Maharaj and Motiba went to Gangajalia well to wash off the curd.

Brahamanand Swami wrote twenty four devotional songs about 'creamy curd, leela' of Shri Hari and in those devotional sons, he wrote. '..... એ લડાઈની વાત બ્રહ્માનંદ જાણે રે .....' A Satsang Sabha was organized on the same day at evening and Shriji Maharaj himself himself was present at the Sabha, gracing a majestic seat beneath the neem tree. Brahmanand Swami saluted to Shri Hari and sang devotional songs of that 'butter and curd leelas.' Maharaj listened to it attentively and asked in a typical probing tone, 'Brahm Kavi ! When did I acted so ?' 'Maharaj ! I sang it, when I witnessed it by my own eyes,' said Brahmanand Swami with mischivious smile on his lips. Child like naughtiness was lurking in his sparkling eyes. Maharaj was pleased to his devotional fervour. He sent words to Motiba, 'Gift a lofty thaal to Brahmanand with lots of creamy curd, to stop him disgracing me.' Sabha was amused by such witty remarks of Maharaj. Brahm Kavi received the both feast meal and curd –

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SUM TOTAL OF THE YEARS OF OUR LIFE

- Shatri Hari Swami

This is an old story. The science and scientific research was expanding rapidly in those days. The scientists and researches were discovring and inventing new facts to enhance knowledge of science. Research and studies were aiming at space and planets to gather facts about the evolvement of the earth and universe ther than the planet earth where we live, the nearest planet they preferred was the moon. The moon was the closest to the earth, if compared it to other planets. The scientists and scientific institutions targeted mutually to explore the land-mass of moon. To fix a target is very easy, but it is most difficult to attain it. To explore the surface of moon was like growing horns on the head of a rabbit. It was like crushing the sand to extract oil from it.

But the scientists were firm and determined to explore the moon. Such exploration needed a vehicle to travel in air and space. Conventional aeroplanes can not travel for such a long distance and that too in the space. At last they and eveloped a space craft operating by the pure energy produced by the craft it self. It contained inbuilt system to overcome problems related to oxygene and gravity free zone. They trained the crew and team of the voyagers for this unique voyage in unusal unknown. Thus the unique vehicle – spacecraft - was now ready to visit lofty land mass of moon.

The crew and the member researchers were impatient to explore the land of moon. They took charge of the space craft and count down began at an appointed time to take the team in the womb of infinite space. The spacecraft with a thundering blast and tremendous flush of smoke, fled strait to the sky like a powerful missile and disappeared within minutes upward in the sky. It continued its speedy travel without any break or change in its speed. Hours, days and nights passed in this long journey. It was an unusual and thrilling experience for the voyagers. They were comfortable in the spacecraft but were totally detached of the time and place. It was darkness of space enveloping their spacecraft. There was unpenetratable darkness and absolute emptiness. No air, no pollutents, nothing ! No indication of any drecition or their position ! The spacecraft was free of gravitational forces ! free of environment ! It was traveling in nothingness, absolute space !

They travelled for many days in endless darkness but found no sign of moon ! One among the scientists, said to his fellow voyagers, 'We should inquire about the direction of journey. Whether are we travelling to the moon or going back to the earth ? We must find out our actual position.' His colleagues agreed to him.

Some one suggested to use powerful telescope to identify their destination. They pointed it to front direction to observe the object. They kept the both under observation the moon and the earth ! if size of the moon increases with passage of time, they should know that they are heading towards the moon and if happenes so with the earth, they should know that the spacecraft is heading back to the earth ! They observed it constantly for a long time and found that size of the moon was increasing and the size of the earth was decreasing. They were travelling upward to the moon.

Dear Devotees ! God has blessed us with the spacecraft named the 'life' to act, walk and travel. We need to progress on the path

Con. on page 8

LORD SHRI HARI IN HIS CONTEMPORARY TRIO FORM

- Atulbhai B. Pothiwala

The 30th day of July was celebrated in colour of love and affection to wish H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri on his eighth birthday. Majestic celebrations were organized at the prasadi Sabha Mandapam in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. Our supreme Lord Shriji Maharaj was present with us in His three another forms : H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri and Birthday boy H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri. This holy darshana of the three images of Lord Shriji Maharaj has become an everlasting memory for the devotees of Shri Hari.

Have a look at the world, and you will find everywhere people who have only a vague image of the presence of God. Lord Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan is the only God incarnated who lived with us in recent past by incarnating Himself in human form. While living with our ancestors, He built temples and invoked His divine self in the idols at those temples. Most emancipating among the benedictory acts of Him, is the installation of the Acharyas, by choosing two from his Dharmvanshi sons. This lineage of the Dharmvanshi Acharyas has emancipated millions of souls by their blessed preachings and by initiating mantra Deeksha to the disciple-Satsangis. Shri Hari in His three successive forms – as father, son and grand son, dwell amongst us to benedict us by their darshan. This is Trimurti image of Shri Hari. These three unique and identical images of Shri Hari are engaged in mission of universal benediction.

Lord Shri Swaminarayana Bhagwan is supreme. The seats of the spiritual preceptor installed by Him for Shri Narnarayandev Desh and Shri Lakshminarayandev Desh are supreme and the Dharmvanshi Acharya installed by Shri Hari are unparalleled supreme. This seat and the occupant of the seat are unique and no Acharya, Guru or Mahant in the world hold any capacity to parallel Dharmvanshi Acharyas. They are chosen and installed directly by God himself. God has chosen them from His Dahrmkul lineage. This is directly from Akshardham without any election or selection.

Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan has distributed freely the benign gift of his self perception, by announcing highest spiritual chair of Dharmvanshi Acharyas. The celebrations and festivities of the birthday are mere instruments and means to reaffirm our faith and trust in contemporary Trio image of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan.

The first step on side of a devotee is to remove from his mind the doubts and suspicions if any. It is good to trust in Lord Narnarayandev, saints and Satsangis. It is good to serve them with respect and dedication, but existed if the remotest weakness or slightest doubt in regard to divinity of Acharya Maharajshri or Shri Lalji Maharajshri, there shall be no divinity in your Satsang and devotion. Your soul and mind will stay dirty and ugly. This dirt and ugliness in the form of stary thoughts about the Acharya, pulls us down from the path of Satsang and self benediction. Those dirty thoughts will not vacate your mind or soul, and in circumstance as such, we shall never be catagorised in the superior category of the true satsangis, and this drawback on our side would effect adversely in our efforts for the

self benediction.

We are most fortunate souls. The satsangis in the past many generations never had any chance to do darshan of the three Dharm Vanshi Acharyas present together before them in their trio form as the descendant sons of Shri Hari. God's divine luminosity that illuminates from the person of H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj, resemble perfectly with the divine light emerging from H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj. The divine luminosity of this divine trio illuminates our heart and soul to live perfectly as a true satsangi and leads us on the path of self emancipation. Omniscience of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri becomes perceptible by we devotees when His holiness at such tender age addresses the saints and the Satsangis individually and that too by their first name !

The soul if honoured and respected by a few, flies high in the limitless sky of ego and false pride, but this divine 'trio' – Shri Hari in his three descendant heirs - never feel so despite salutes and standing ovations tendered by the millions of devout followers. This shows decorum and dignity of the Pada (preceptorship), Gadi (highest spiritual chair) and Paagha (symbolic headgear). H.H. Acharya Maharajshri adorns Pagh on his head.

Faithful devotees of His holiness perceive image of Lord Sahajanand Swami in divine person of Maharajshri, when Acharya Maharajshri graces the spiritual chair with the blessed red turban on his head. This is the absolute truth that has no room for any doubt.

The practice of perfect houscholdership is much difficult to practise and such householdership with the duties and responsibilities as a Acharya (supreme spiritual preceptor) becomes a most difficult way to walk steadily and firmly. It is not so difficult if one has to stand on one foot in a forest to do penance, but to dignify Acharya Pada by discharging spiritual and householder duties is the toughest task on the earth. The cut throat competetion go on everywhere on pretext of sect and Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Amidst such unhealthy pulls and pushes, the present trio of Dharmkul Acharya have maintained dignity and decorum of this supreme spiritual chair with the dignity of the sect and its religious institutions besides the saints and satsangis. Our precedent Acharya H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has glorified this sect by his world wide religious tours, overseas Satsang Camps and by installing images and idols of God in hundreds of temples in India and abroad. Contemporary Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri heralds further the religious mission of the preceding Acharya Maharajshri.

Monsoon rain gives life to the crops in the fields and farms. Besides the crops, weed and grass too grow in the field by such rain. Look wise, they look green and beautiful like the other crops. But a wise and successful farmer knows difference between these two - real crops and weed.

As they shoot from the earth, a good farmer removes those weed and grass right – from their roots.

Much of such weed and grass have grown on the earth on pretext of Shri Swaminarayan Sampradaya. A wise devotee should not spare such weed at the cost of axiomatic sect and dioceses. He should know that the food grain is the life. God is the life. The grand tradition founded by Shri Hari is in the form of two dioceses and each of these two with the

Acharya to head and lead the sect. The divine trio of Dharmvanshi descendant sons is a boon to us from Lord Shri Hari. Such sublime thinking and such aspiration would help us in self emancipation. There shall be no existence of the self if omitted the trio from your householder world or thought of them as a human being. Festivals and celebrations are an integral part of our life. We should celebrate it whole heartedly. Lord Shriji Maharaj himself has founded this grand tradition of the samaiyas and celebrations.

When celebrating a religious festival, ensure to do darshan of these three divine forms of Shri Hari. They are our Guru and spiritual guide in this thorny world – inner and outer ! Do darshan of them. Concentrate your mind and the perceptive senses in the image of them. Feel divine presence – blissful presence to cool your innerself, mind and soul. Touch lotus feet of them and observe the changes taking place within you. You will feel fully fulfilled by such darshan of the Acharya. His holiness removes our ego and false pride to purify inner self for the service of Lord Shri Hari.

Shriji Maharaj has said in the Vachanamrit of the first series, 'A devotee surrendering to Dharmkul, receives brahmic body at the will of God.'

Remember it well, there is no difference between Lord Shri Swaminarayan and the Dharmvanshi Acharya installed by Him. If grasped this will, your heart will respond :

"મોટા દેવને મોટાં મંદિર આચાર્ય અમારા મોટા રે....
હથેળીમાં પણ ચાંદ બતાવે તોયે અન્ય પ્રહરી ખોટાં રે....."

(Our God, temples and Acharya are the greatest. Others, though may be successful in showing us the moon in their palm, we treat them as false and fake.)

Con. from page 5

SUM TOTAL OF THE YEARS OF OUR LIFE

of virtues and self benediction. The years which begin with the new year wishes and end with Diwali festival of the lights pass away silently one by one. The Diwali day is the last day of a calander year. This is the day to audit our everyday activities which we did during the year. We should draw a balance sheet of our movements our progress. Have we progressed towards the emancipation or were drawn downward to the ephemeral world of the sense objects ? Diwali is the day to check our inner self.

Shriji Maharaj has said in his Vachanamrit (G.1. 38) : A Satsangi should try to introvert and examine his mind, that in the first year after his intiation in satsang, his mind was full of the desires of the sense objects and then in the second year he had, besides the worldly desires, cultivated some affection for God. Likewise, if he goes on examining his mind year after year to assess the affection that he has cultivated for God and also the deep rooted desires for mundane objects that have possessed his mind, he would gradually get rid of his worldly desires.' Diwali is the appointed time for such an assessment.

Shriji Maharaj has repeated this advise in his other discourses (Vach. P-1) 'How blissful then should God be ? It is like the light of this torch, whose intensity is much more in vicinity of the torch, but the light is reduced as the distance increases and disappears ultimately at a very great distance. Similarly,God possesses and offers the fullest bliss to one who is nearest to Him, but as one recedes from Him, the intensity of the divine bliss is gradually reduced.'

Live in company of God. Live in company of Satpurusha. Holy company is eternal source of bliss and benediction – Ensure that ephemeral world becomes smaller and God's devotion becomes larger.

A SAFE AND BLISSFUL ADDRESS

- Sadhu Shrirangdas

The world is striving for the pleasure. Mankind runs chesing ephemeral pleasures. People are putting in best of their efforts to ensure safety, security and pleasures in their lives. They are looking here and there for the means and ways to ensure it. But what is correct address of a true happiness – eternal bliss ?

"સુખ હૈ હરિ કે ચરણ મેં,"

S.G. Premanand Swami says that true and eternal pleasures are available at the lotus feet of Shri Hari. He sings :

"પુરુષોત્તમ સહજાનંદ જાને સુખ રાખી,
પ્રેમાનંદ આયો શરન ચરન કો નિવાસી."

(Lord Purushottam Sahajanand is eternal source of divine bliss. Sant premanand surrenders at the lotus like feet of Lord Sahajanand Swami)

He who holds the feet of Shri Hari, dwells forever at the benign refuge of Shri Hari. Such a devotee is protected against the pains of the world. Those who have not surrendered shall be crushed in the granding wheels of the world.

An ascetic came to a village to beg alm. He was a real saint – blissful, quiet and good natured. He pronounced "Narayan Hare" at the gate of a householder. The house lady who was grinding the wheat, knew as that the saint was come to her house to receive alm from them she was eager to serve alm therefore, she stopped her grinding wheels and went quickly to the kitchen to collect the alm for the saint. The sadhu saw her grinding. The flour and the grinding wheels were a painful shock for him. He in remorse and pain cried profusely. House lady came to him with the meal to serve it as alm. She found the saint crying at her door. She asked, 'Oh saint ! Why are you crying ? Please tell me, if we have hurt your feelings. Neighbours gathered at her gate to know about the commotion and cry. Saint was not answering any prayer despite her repeated requests. The neighbours thought for a while and said, 'Mahatmaji is still crying. He is not answering to anybody. She is perhaps late in attending call of the alm. She has probably hurt the feelings of the saint. House lady and her husband begged for a pardon and requested him repeatedly to stop weeping. They begged for a pardon for their follies and requested him to have the alm, but the saint wept in greater instensity instead of stopping.

It is true that the worldly souls have no idea about the pains and miseries faced by a saint. A saint or God understands the miseries of a satpurusha. Worried about the saint and the householder family, the neighbours waited there with them to pacify the situation, but there was no sign of any improvement.

Meanwhile, drawn by commotion and noise, a Sadhu from a nearby area, came to them and making his way through the crowd he approached the Sadhu. He looked first at the weeping saint and saw then the house and the grinding wheels. He got the point instantly and took the saint to the grinding wheels. As he lifted the grinding wheels, weeping saint laughed loudly instead of crying form the hub of the grinding wheel. They both laughed together and left the house. Neighbours saw them leaving the place happily without any alm from the householder family. Neighbours were much confused in regard to contribution of the grinding wheels. Why he stopped crying

Con. on page 12

ATHEIST AMERICAN CHANGES HIMSELF TO FAITH AND DIVINE BY THE GRACE OF SHRI HARI

America is a materialist country. The achievements human life are measured in terms of money and luxuries. There is no room for spiritual upliftment. No room for faith and trust ! 'Give and take' is their life style and physical sciences are their God. H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has graced this prosperous country about thirty years ago, in his first visit of and had founded there ISSO and Shri Swaminarayan Sampradaya to change wealth oriented life style of American community. Millions of our Satsangi families are residing in this country. A large number of temple have been built up at various places during this long period of last thirty years. H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri have led hundreds of religious tours in this land of material wealth with their blessed prasence at the Satsang camps organized there to benefit local residents. They have addressed hundreds of public meetings to preach them virtues, values and faith.

These constant efforts, stretched to a long period of a quarter of a century, have yielded benedictory fruits. Hundres of devout local residents are visiting our temples to pay obeisance to Lord Shri Hari. Thousand of aspirants have come in benign fold of the sect by receiving Mantra Deeksha and vratmaans. There is total change in local attitude. American community, now follows the steps of the overseas Satsangis. There is constant rise in such following. Here below is a recent story of such rise in faith :

Grand festivities of invocation of the idols of God were celebrated in August this year in benign presence of both the Acharyas of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese. These religious events were organized at our Colonia Temple (U.S.A.), and devotees were come from all the states of U.S.A. and England to participate in these religious celebrations. Our faithful Satsangi Shri Amarishbhai Chhotabhai Patel (Kadi – Mehsanawala) from Chicago was come with his friend Mr. Niel Mayer. Mr. Mayer works as a senior executive in a reputed company famous for VO5 shampoo. Mr. Mayer, a born atheist, has become now a pure theist and a true believer with the due blessings of Lord Shriji Maharaj. This change is a miracle, and the events and experiences leading to such miracle are most touching. Here below is a story of his changed life.

Shri Amarishabhai and Mr. Mayer are good friends. Both the families used to share with each other the joys and pleasures of them without any reservation. Though friendly to each other, there was a basic difference between them, Mr. Patel was a faithful and trustworthy devotee of Shri Hari, but Mr. Mayer has never believed in existence of God or supreme consciousness. In other words, Mr. Mayer was a confirmed atheist. He hated to think about God, he condemned and refuted so called powers of God. He believed in his own self and believed firmly in the materical world. He was aware of devout life of Shri Amarishbhai and their family. Shri Amrishbhai and his daughter Madhuri (age 7 years) were used to do darshan at Chicago temple by walking 7 miles on each Poonam day. Mr. Mayer knew it well but never paid any attention to their faith and trust.

Since some time, Mr. Niel Mayer was passing through some problem in his office. Amarishbhai found him depressed when he met him in lunch time. Amarishbhai had with him some occasional talk and then he said with much concern, 'Why so worried ? Is there any problem ? Could you disclose it to me ? I shall be happy, if I may be of any help to you.' Mr. Mayer then disclosed his heart. Amarishbhai consoled him whole heartedly and said, 'My friend ! You are like my brother. I will pray to Lord Swaminarayan to relieve you from this problem. I will pray on my own behalf and on behalf of you. God will bless you.' Mr. Mayer said, 'Amarish ! I am not asking you to pray for me. If you want to pray, you may do it at your own.' There is nothing new, if an atheist responds so, and Mr. Niel was not less than a non-believer !

Early evening Satsang is a regular feature of each Saturday at our Chicago temple. Hundreds of devotees are used to visit Chicago temple to attend evening Satsang and Katha-Kirtan sessions. Aarti and Nitya Niyamas are recited collectively before the indwelling God to offer obeisance to Lord Shri Radhakrishna Harikrishna Maharaj. Devotee Shri Amarishbhai prayed heartily at the lotus feet of God to invoke devotional love at the heart of Mr. Niel Mayer. He prayed to Shri Hari to help his friend in his moments of crisis. On the Monday that followed this eventful Saturday, he met again to Mr. Niel and informed him about the prayer he had offered to Lord Shriji Maharaj to solve his problem.

When he was informed so by Shri Amarishbhai, Mr. Neil stared shockingly at the face of his friend and said in a depression free voice, 'My friend ! The problem which was impossible to solve, is about to be solved. I don't know how it has happened, but I am so relieved ! I can not express my feelings and happiness. I am so happy !'

Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj, installed and invoked by the sixth descendant son of the Dharmkul and Shri Hari H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayandev Dioces, solves our problem. He is our saviour – God. Lord Shri Hari is omniscient and omnipresent. He is with his devotees in all their acts and duties.

Mr. Niel was very happy. Now, he was free from worries and tension. While discussing new found job satisfaction and recognition, he said to Amrishbhai, 'Still misses something, it is not upto my aspiration. I hope to have much more.' Amarishbhai saw twinkling expectations in his bright mischievous eyes. Amarishbhai paused for a while and responded to him, 'A hearty prayer is always answered by God. We may pray again to get more support. God is merciful. God grants the prayers of his devotees.' Mr. Niel then request his friend insistently to pray for him. The favour granted to Mr. Mayer, was very small in eyes of God, but it broke the steel walls obstructing Mr. Niel in his devotion and trust. Though not so steady or firm. Mr. Niel was about to sat the first step forward on the path of faith and trust. It was a happy beginning. Amarishbhai observed this changed attitude and took advantage of it in best favour of his friends. He said, 'Look ! Now, I will apply your theory in my efforts for you. Action and counter action, give and take. If my prayer is granted with a positive reward for you, what you would do in response to such a fruitful prayer ? Think well in the light of your personal logic and tell me.' Mr. Niel Mayer pondered for a second and said frankly, 'Look ! If your prayer is answered in positive, I will

accompany you bare footed to do Darshan of Chicago temple.' He promised candidly. Amarishbhai said, 'Are you mad ? Do you know what have you promised ? Do you think the atheist in you would allow you to walk ? Seven miles bare footed and that too for the Dashan of God ?' Mr. Niel said in bliss of satisfaction, 'Of course, I will come as a devotee. I am very clear in regard to my promise.' It was closing time of the temple when they came to such understanding, but to take maximum advantage of postive developments, Amarishbhai rushed to the temple with his friend Mr. Niel Mayer. It was 11.55 am and God was about to retire for the afternoon rest. Shri Amarishbhai and Mr. Mayer stood silently before Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj and presented silent prayer in presence of many devotees. Satsangis were astonished by such change in am American gentleman.

Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj answered instantly to the prayer of Mr. Mayer and fulfilled his aspiration. On following full moon day, he joined Pada Yatra bare footed and walked seven miles with the family of Amarishbhai, did darshan of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj and conveyed hearty thanks in form of humble prayer.

Mr. Mayer's life was transformed into a devout soul - a true satsangi. He realized bliss and majesty of almighty Shriji Maharaj and surrendered himself at the lotus feet of Shri Hari. He is a tree Satsangi dedicated to Shri Narnarayandev Diocese and H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and many from his professional group and the friends are following his steps.

- Amarishbhai C. Patel

Con. from page 9

A SAFE AND BLISSFUL ADDRESS

on seeing a open wheel ? Why he laughted instead of crying ? They followed the saint and prayed, 'Oh Great saint ? Please help us solve this riddle. Why your colleague laughed when he saw the wheels ? As soon you lifted the wheel, he stopped crying and laughed on seeing the wheels. What was the cause behind it ?

Saint said, 'This ascetic saw the grains, bright and attractive like the pearls. The grians were crushed and ground in fine flour when they were dropped in the grinding wheels. The saint thought of the grinding wheels and grians, respectively as Maya and souls. The grinding wheels are like Maya (eternal entity) of Bhagwna, and souls are like grains. Maya crushes and grinds the worldly souls. Wisest souls are ground to flour in the gient wheels of Maya – the eternal entity. The saint found himself helpless when he saw Maya in the form grinding wheels. He was not able to solve the riddle of Maya. He found it most inevitable. He cried more and more when he found no way to escape the Maya. I grasped his point, when I saw the grinding wheels. I took him there and lifted the upper wheel. Then I showed him the lower wheel and the hub fixed in the centre of the wheel. The hub was strong enough to control the circular movement of the rotating wheel. The saint saw there the grains around and near the hub. Those grains were safe and unhurt, bright and whole. Maya is like the grinding wheels and the souls are like grains, but the hub of the grinding wheel acts like God to protect the grains, if they submit themselves at the refuge like proximity of the bub. The grains around the hub can not be crushed by the grinding wheels ! Live in proximity of God and live happily without any fear.

S.G. SHRI MAHANUBHAVANADN SWAMI

The saints and the Satpurushas are preaching us the episodes to strengthen devotional fervour and faith in us. Here is an episode to strengthen faith and trust.

Great celibate saint Narada came once to the royal court of Lord Rama. There he saw a large book. A thickly written book. Out of curiosity he opened the book to browse it. It was an index of the devotees of Shri Rama. Thousands of people were enlisted there as devotees of Shri Rama. He browsed through the book and checked the entries, but the name of Hanuman was not listed any where ! Narada was surprised by such new found secret. He slipped silently from there without any notice and went to Hanuman – worthy son of wind.

'Jai Ramji ki ! Oh Hanumant Deva ! I am here from the royal court of Lord Rama. I thought it fit to see you in my return journey. Hope, everything is fine here,' said Narada in perplexed mind.

Hanumana received him warmly and said, 'Oh Navada ! You are most welcome. Please grace this seat and tell me more about Lord Rama. How is He ? Every thing should be fine,' said Hanuman, with devotional fervour.

Narada : 'Lord Rama was presiding his imperial court. I saw there a very large and fat book. It was an index of all his devotees. I have checked the rigister to satisfy my curiosity. I have browsed through the pages and entries, but your name is not listed among those thousands of devotees. Is n't it a mistake of God ?'

Renounced soul Hanumana said, 'My God is above such superflious things. It does not matter, whether it is written or not. Such an omission is absolutely insignificant, it cant stop me in I my service to God. Forget about it.' This again was a riddle for Narada. He pondered to get solution of such unusual way of thinking. As he got up to leave the place, Anjaninanadan prayed to him, 'Oh Narada ! Do you know ? Lord Rama maintains a pocket diary ? I don't know what he writes and when, but the diary is always in his pocket.'

Narada came back to the imperial court of Lord Rama. He was mentally confused by the riddle of missing name. He prayed to Rama, 'Oh Lord Rama ! As I have gathered, you are maintaining a diary a personal diary.'

Lord Rama smiled at him and said, 'Oh Great soul ! I maintain a diary, but it is no secret. If you wish, you may have a look at.' Lord Rama gave that diary to him.

Narada took it hastily and opened it in hurry. There he saw the name of Hanuman written boldly on top of the first page. This again was a surprise for Narada. He looked at Rama and said, 'Oh My Lord ! Why such a separate note book, when a large book is already there listing thousands of devotees ?'

'Narada ! the devotees listed in the large book are the people who remember me, but my diary lists such devotees who are remembered by me.' Says Rama.

Narada prays in praise, 'Oh Lord Rama ! I praise thee and admire the devotees remembered by you. Rishi Narada left the court silently remembering Shri Hari at his heart.

If Lord Shri Hari would have mainainted such a diary, listing the devout souls remembered by him, S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami would have been first in such personal list of Lord Shri Hari. There was absolute oneness between devotee and his God, there was absolute oneness between master and servent. There was hearty unity and absolute oneness, હરિ સમ સબ દુઃખહારી. Lord Shri Hari is supreme saviour – ultimate destination. S.G. Swami was a dedicated devotee and humble servent of Lord Shri Hari.

S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami was born in 1786 A.D. He was born to a well cultured and decent Brahmin family residing at village Kada in Kurukshetra region of Uttarpradesh. He was

a devout soul right from his childhood. He was an enlightened soul and by his majestic personality he enlightened his father and brother. They too, did devotion of God. He renounced relations and house and did pilgrimage of holy shrines with his father and brother. They visited a majestic temple in kurushetra and paid obeisance to Lord Thakorji. The mahant of the temple was a spiritually wise soul. His father and brother lived there in company of enligtehned Mahant Swami. S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami received Deeksha at the hands of Mahant Swami and received saint hood name – Sevadasji. Sevadasji did service of God, besides personal penance to purify his inner self. Mahant Swami pleased to his dedicated service and devotion. He said, 'Oh Sevadasji ! I am impressed by your devotion, detachement, ethical duties and knowledge. I am now old and weak due to my age. Please hold charge of this shrine and manage it.' Sevadasji listened to him attentively, in silence without any response to his proposal.

Sevasdaji decided instantly to quit the place. He left the temple next morning and did pilgrimage of Dwarika shrine in saurashtra region. He reached Dwarika Dhaam and decided to do service of Lord Dwarikadhish for a period of twelve years. Did Darshan of Lord Shri Krishna and retired to his chamber at the inn. Lord Ranchhodrai appeared in front him during his dream state and asked him not to stay any more at Dwarika. Lord directed him to do darshan of real God.

Sevadasji was very happy by the darshan of Lord Ranchhodrai in his dream state. He woke up early in the morning and left Dwarika to obey to the orders of Lord Dwarikadhish. He came to Jamnagar by a ship. His journey to Jamnagar and the blessed order of Lord Ranchhodrai were the auspicious signs leading him to the realization of God. S.G. Swaroopanand Swami was camping in those days at Jamnagar with a large group of two hundred fifty disciple saints of him Sevadasji had am opportunity to live with the saints to learn and observe their devout saintly life. This most saught after apportunity worked as a background for his initiation in Swaminarayan Satsang. He was deeply impressed by Mahamantra, Dhoon and kirtanas chanted by the group of the saints. It roused curiosity about 'Swaminarayan.' It sounded some what new to him. He inquired with the companion saints. The saint said, 'Oh Enlightened soul ! If I introduce Him in brief, Lord Swaminarayan is manifested human form of Supreme Lord. He at his free will, has descended to earth from his divine abode of Akshardham and incarnated himself as the son of Dharmdev – Bhaktimata. He is Supreme Lord reigning time, space, eternal entity and cosmos. He dwells at present in Gujarat to benedict devout souls. Better you surrender at the lotus like feet of him, and live happily at His blissful refuge.'

Sevadas submits politely, 'I am at refuge of Lord Purna Purushottam Shri Krishna. My meditation is pure and pollution free. I am a faithful servent of him. I can not desert that benign refuge.' As they discussed so, like an auspicious sign,arrived there a messanger and delivered a letter from Shriji Maharaj.

S.G. Swaroopanand Swami paid obeisance to the letter, as the content it self was a verbal form of Lord Shri Hari. He tauched the letter to his head and opened it respectfully. The saints were directed to reach Siddhpur on full moon day of chaitra. Lord Shriji Maharaj was to grace there a splendid Samaiya organized by thousands of devtees and saints from Gujarat and other states. Saints were very happy by this invitation. Sevadasji joined these saintly groups to do darshan of Swaminarayan Bhagwan. He saw in these events the prediction, pronounced by Lord Ranchhodrai at Dwarika.

The enthusiastic saints and the deovotees from various places reached Unjha well in time to receive Lord Shriji Maharaj on the next day. Shriji maharaj graced the town of Unjha. Sevadasji did darshan of Him. Hundreds of

disciple saints and Paramhansas were paying obeisance to Him with the Dandvat Pranama and silent prayer. Sevadasji's eyes and sight and glued to the blissful image of Shriji Maharaj – compassion and love filled eyes, soft benign smile on the lips, broad and bright foechead, illuminating Tilaka and Chandlo, attractive head gear, clean white dress, his walking style, sweetness of his voice and His impressive personality drew him to the God in human form – God dwelling with them. Sevadasji concluded that the boon granted by Lord Ranchhodrai is materialized now at this moment. Shriji Maharaj is no other than Supreme Lord.

Shriji Maharaj graced Unjha and had Thaal from his devout followers. He graced thereafter a special assembly of the saints. Saint sevadasji walked forward and bowed his head in obeisance at the lotus feet of Lord Shriji Maharaj. S.G. Swaroopanand Swami introduced him to Shriji Maharaj.

Sevadasji prayed to Shriji Maharaj, 'Oh Merciful Lord ! Oh Maharaj ! Help me to be a true servent of Thee.' Shriji Maharaj smiled at him. Sevadasji received thereafter Vaishnavi Diksha and sainthood name 'Mahanubhavanand' at the blessed hands of Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj said after the initiation. 'Swami ! I have to get much work from you.' The name assigned to him was proved most meaningful in later days. Name it self was indicative of his greatness and profoundity. That samaiya was organized in 1806 AD and Swami was in his twenties at the time Deeksha.

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Shriji Maharaj graced Jetalpur Dhaam and had a session with the saints, beneath a temerind tree. The kirtan session was followed by a question – answer session among the disciple saints to test their knowledge, intelligence and spiritual wisdom. After the meeting, He invited his twelve senior saints inclusive of Mahanubhavanand Swami and offered to them honoured seats, near Him. Shriji Maharaj honoured them by initiating to them religious title of 'Sadguru.' Maharaj then addressed the assembly and said to the saints and devotees, 'Oh my saints and Haribhaktas ! The manner in which you respect and worship me, in like manner, do poojan-worship of these twelve Sadgurus. Please take this as my order and follow it in years to come.'

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Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was being organized at Tera. The Parayan Satsang was to be hosted by Shri Mavjibhai. The saints and householder Haribhaktas were inivited from various places to participate in that devotional feast. Lord Shriji Maahraj was camping at tera to enlighten his faithful followers. Enthusiastic souls S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami was the first among the saints to visit Tera with the group of his saints. He was eager to do dashan of Shriji Maharaj and with such devotional fervour he ran towards the camping place of Shriji Maharaj.

Shriji Maharaj was sat to have thaal-meal. Some one broke the news and said that S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami has entered the village with a group of his saints. Shriji Maharaj postpond his meal instantly got up quickly from the seat and walked forward to embrace his dear disciple. Shriji Maharaj had casual conversation with him and proceeded thereafter to have thaal and meal. This episode incates oneness and mutual love.

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Maharaj says to Swami, 'Swami ! You learn and study the Sanskrit grammer.' Swami prays, 'Maharaj ! I will learn Sankrit grammer.' Maharaj says, 'Do study of Kaumudi (a book of grammer)'

Swami submits, 'Maharaj ! I will learn Kaumudi.'

Maharaj insist, 'Swamit ! Concentrate well in your study of Kaumudi.

Study it well. I will take care of your japa and penance and Niyamas by practising it on your behalf. Dedicate wholeheartedly to your study.'

S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami obeyed to the orders of Maharaj. He lived as a student of S.G. Nityanand Swami and learnt Sanskrit Kaumudi.

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S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami received a message at his chamber at Kariyani. He was summoned by Shriji Maharaj to see him personally. Mahanubhavanand Swami came to Gadhada and paid hearty obeisance to Shriji Maharaj.

Maharaj said, 'Mahanubhavanand Swami! I have an import assignment for you. Others shall not be able to do it.'

Mahanubhavanand Swami says, 'Maharaj ! As you wish. I am ready to receive your orders.'

Maharaj said, 'Swami ! Leave quickly for Dholera and look after the construction of the temple.'

Swami prayed, 'Maharaj ! disciple saints are learning from me. Change will effect adversely on their learning. I will like to please you by my service. Please order me accordingly.'

Maharaj said, 'Swami ! You carry on with your teaching. I will depute some one to take care of the construction work. I am more interested in teaching and learning.'

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Once, a grand satsang Sabha was organized at the Vartal temple. Shriji Maharaj graced the assembly and arranged two large seats at either sides of Him. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri accompanied by Mahanubhavanand Swami and Vasudevanand Swami graced one seat. Another seat was graced by Raghuvirji Maharajshri in company of Swayamprakashanand Swami and Akhandanand Brahmchari. Shriji Maharaj looked at either sides of Him and addressed the Sabha, 'Oh My follower devotees ! These saints Mahanubhavanand Swami and Vasudevanand Brahmchari are the hands of Ayodhyaprasadji. In similar way, Swayamprakashanand Swami and Akhandanand Brahmchari are the hands of Raghuvirji Maharaj. Believe in my words and stick to it.

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The Sabha Mandapam was being constructed at the Vartal temple. Saints and Haribhaktas were contributing towards the construction by full time messonary and labour work under supervision of S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami. Shriji Maharaj graced the place and showered his hearty pleasure for the devotional service rendered by the saints and devotees. Shriji Maharaj invited them for a hearty hug. They all were in a bed shape due to mud, lime and dust on their body, therefore they tried clumsily to dust it off by their hands and a wash.

Shriji Maharaj said, 'Let it be there. Don't mind it. Don't wash your person. Those lumps of mud are like sandal paste to me, rather better than it. Please come on. Have heart to heart meetting. Shriji Maharaj embraced them lovingly.

Meanwhile, Mahanubhavanand Swami came there to pay salute to Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj looked at him and said, 'Swami ! You are very neat and clean. Why have you come them ?' Mahanubhavanand Swami prays, 'Oh Merciful Lord ! I was guiding them in construction work. I was supervisin a work to meet requirements of the contruction plan.' 'Then come to me. Your devotional service is double than the service of these disciples. Come on, be quick and embrace me.' Shriji Maharaj embraced him heartly.

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Shriji Maharaj himself looked after the marriage festivities, when Dada Khachar married on advice of Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj served sumptuous sweet feast meals to the saints for the five days to give them full satisfaction of Mahaprasadam. Once, a servent came to Shriji Maharaj and reported huge surplus stock of curd. Shriji Maharaj said, 'This is an auspicious event and the curd too becomes auspicious on such occasion. It shall be most auspicious act from our side, if we use it in plenty and that too for an

auspicious cause.' 'Shriji Maharaj then walked through the rows of saints and stood in front of Mahanubhavanand Swami. Shriji Maharaj then addressed them loudly, 'Mahanubhavanand Swami is a friend of Matra Dhadhal and therefore, he is a major one from the bride side. Therefore, bring the curd. I will do Abhishekam of curd on him.' Shriji Maharaj did majestic Abhishekam on S.G. Mahanubhavanand Swami and celebrated auspicious occasion in a auspicious way.'

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Saints had feast meals at their satisfaction to celebrate marriage of Dada Khachar. Shriji Maharaj spoke to them when they finished the meal, 'Dear Saints ! Whoever among you would have the Jeelabi, shall be accompanied by me by having equal number of Jeelabis.' In excitement of devotional love saints came forward individually and had equal number of Jeelebis with Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj joined individual saint in such sumptuous feast. Now, Saints were fully satisfied. There was no room even for a morsel.

Shriji Maharaj was pleased to the saints and in such festive mood, he proposed again to the saints, 'Dear saints ! Now whoever consumes Jeelebi will get my foot prints on his chest. I will repeat the foot prints in accordance to number of the Jeelabis he has had.' Saints tried within their capacity to have Jeelabis to get holy foot prints of Shriji Maharaj. Mahanubhavanand Swami took one after another, the eleven Jeelabis to get maximum foot prints. Those Jeelabis were not consumed by him but were tucked secretly in sleeve of his Alfi (upper cloth). He tired to drop them in an utensil when feast meals concluded. Chaitanyanand Swami saw him dropping those Jeelebis. He complained to Maharaj, 'Maharaj ! Mahanubhavanand Swami has cheated on us.' 'What wrong has he committed ?' said Maharaj. 'Maharaj ! He had betrayed and cheated us.' 'What actually has happened ?' 'Maharaj ! One after another, he took eleven Jeelebis in such rounds and received eleven foot prints on his chest. But the Jeelabis lifted by him, were not consumed by him. He hid them in his sleeve, instead of eating them. He has not fulfilled the condition and had betrayed us by violeting it.' Said Chaitanyanand Swami.

Shriji Maharaj pronounced dramatically, 'The man from the bride side is a cheat. We must punish him. Bring here milk and curd. We will pour it on his head.' Maharaj bathed him in milk and curd.

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Shriji Maharaj and a small group of his saints organized a religious tour of Surat on a hearty invitation from the faithful Satsang of Surat. From Karoli, they walked to Amod on way to Surat. Mahanubhavanand Swami was accompaning Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj observed with delight, 'Surati devotees have great devotional love for us. They shall be very happy by our visit.'

'Not at all. They shall be disheartened by our visit.' Said Mahanubhavanand Swami.

'Why are you saying so ? Why they will not be happy ? Talk something sensible. I can't understand it.'

'Maharaj ! Those devout souls have arranged it in a big way with devotional enthusiasm. They have thought that you would be there with them with a splendid retinue of hundreds of saints. They are expecting thousands of devotees to jain that devotional feast with your disciple – saints in thousand. With such expectation they have arranged everything in a big way. They have collected means and materials to serve feast meals to the thousands of guests and have arranged comfortable camping facilities for a large number of guests. Contrary to such expectation, you are visiting them with a very small team of a few saints. How could they be happy ? Their thoughtful labour and care shall be in vein.'

While listening to Swami, Shriji Mahraj said to the saints, 'Wait. Wait. This is true.

Mahanubhavanand Swami is perfectly right in his point. We should invite some more saints to join us. We should go there with a large retinue of the saints. Swami ! Send some saints quaickly to contact near by places and invite the saints from this region. They should joinus in religious tour of Surat.'

Mahanubhavanand Swami arranged it through Madhavadasji and by a door to door message service, they gathered a sizable crowd of the saints, living in villages of that area. Lord Shriji Maharaj led a huge retinue of the saints and graced Surat to give devotional pleasure to his faithful devotees.

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Mahanubhavanand Swami was constructing a temple at Chikhlod of Kapadvanj tehsil. Timber was needed for the temple. Swami spoke to the devotees about shortage of timber and saught their guidance in acquiring it. He pleaded to the Haribhaktas to surrended big trees standig at their fields and farms. One among the Haribhaktas prayed to Swami, 'Swami ! There are many margosa trees at the field of Ambabhaidas Patel. All are huge and thick.' Swami spoke to him, 'Ambabhai ! As I am made to understand, there are many margosa trees at your field. All are large and thick. If you don't mind, please give some of them to us to construct this temple. God will please to you for your service.' Patel was impressed by blissful personality and manners of Swami. He said, 'Swami ! I have nursed those margosa trees like my own sons, but I can't ignore a request from a great celibate saint like you. It shall be my pleasure, you my take them at your pleasure.' Swami was pleased to Patel and admired his servitude. This being a perfect timing, one from the wellwisher of Patel, submitted politely to Swami, 'Swami ! Amba Patel has no progeny to sustain his lineage. Please be kind to him,' Kind hearted Swami said in compassion, 'You will get male children and their their number shall be equal to the number of the trees, that you donated to us. But there shall be a condition. Half of them shall be ours and remaining half shall be yours.' Amba Patel could not undersand the meaning of the boon, therefore, he prayed, 'Swami ! I am not able to understand your condition. Please explain it to me.' Swami said, 'Ambabhai ! Released souls of Akshardham shall be born to your family. They will come to us to live like a saint.'

Swami took seven margosa trees from the field Ambabhai and completed the temple buildings at Chikhlod. As the time passed, Ambaidas Patel got serven sons. Three among them were born ascetics – S.G. Narayansevakdasji, S.G. Ghanshyamjeenvandasji and Swami Krishnajivandasji. The three traditional groups of these three saints are known in Ahmedabad as 'Limbada wala Mandals." His fourth son executed householder duties for the thrity five years and renounced it thereafter as Mahapurushadasji Swami. Progency of the three householder sons are householder devotees of Shri Hari.

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S.G. Brahmanand Swami was contructing Muli Dhaam and Mahanubhavanand Swami was assisting him in plans of the temple. A Nadoda-devotee from Rampara served there permanently with his cart and a pair of the bullocks. He was a regular worker, sincere and honest. Mahanubhavanand Swami pleased by his free service and said to him, 'Bhagat ! God will please to you.' Bhagat prayed with misery, 'Swami ! There shall be nothing good to me. What he will give ? 'I have no roof to shelter my head, no money, no family to live with them. I am all alone.' Swami said, 'Bhagat ! Don't worry. You will get everthing by the grace of God.' With the due blessings of Swami, he built a moderate house and got a good natured lady to marry her. He earned wealth and social status as a respectale householder. He got three sons to sustain his lineage and lived a happy life as a devotee of Shri Hari.

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These episodes are indicative of oneness between Shriji Maharaj and Mahanubhavanand Swami. Swami was very close to Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj respected him heartily. Swami too was a well disciplined disciple of Shriji Maharaj. He never disobeyed to the orders of Shriji Maharaj. He was an enlightened ascetic dedicated to Shriji Maharaj. He was simple and ego free in his life as a saint. He was meditating constatnly by installing Shriji Maharaj at the seat his heart. He was an effective administrator and skillful manager, admired by householder devotees and saints. Thousands of devotees were come to Ahmedabad to particapte at the invocation ceremonies of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. To arrange comfortable hospitality and complete security for the Lakhs of devotees was a massive task, Shriji Maharaj deputed Swami to undertake this responsibility. Swami carried it successfully with due guidance from Shriji Maharaj. Shakotsava at Loya was a big shaw, but it was managed most decently and smotthly in that remote and backward area of Saurashtra. This too was managed by Mahanubhavanand Swami.

Shriji Maharaj asked Mahanubhavanand Swami to write a scripture describing divine leelas of Him. Shriji Maharaj assured him constant presence during composition of Shri Harikrishna Lilamrita. Mahanubhavanand Swami wrote this book at free will of God to give blissful pleasure to the millions of Satsangis. This book is like a word form of Lord Shri Hari. It strengthens devotional fervour and selfless love.

* * * * *

Arjan Bhagat of Baldana was bed ridden in a prolonged illness. Mahanubhavanand Swami graced Baldana to meet his ailing Satsangi. Bed ridden devotee paid silent obeisance and prayed for self emancipation. Swami said, 'Bhagat ! I will come again on the fourth day, to lake you to Akshardhaam.' He then blessed the devotee and left for Limbdi.

He graced this sleepy town and had Satsang sessions with the Satsangis at Limbdi. While gracing a sabha on the fourth day, Swami addressed the assembly, 'Devotees ! I have accompanied today our Arjan Bhagat in his final journey to Akshardham. He dwells there happly in divine bliss.' Disciple saints prayed, 'Swami ! you are bodily every weak and had not left this place up till now ? How could it be possible !' Swami says to them 'I dwell in two forms. One is here in front of you and another one dwells in Akshardham to serve Lord Shri Hari.

* * * * *

To please Lord Shriji Maharaj, was the principal of aim of Mahanubhavanand Swami. He was like an executive implementing orders of Shriji Maharaj. Swami spent his last phase in city of Ahmedabad and left for Akshardham on holy third day of the bright half of Jeshtha in V.S. 1913 (6-6-1857). His funeral rites were conducted at the bank of Sabaramti. Limbada wala groups have constructed a marble canopy at that sacred place. Darshan of this canopy fulfills the wishes of the devotees and stremgthens devotional fervour. Thousands of devotees are visiting this place every year for tranquilbliss.

Con. from page 4

..... AND BRAHMANAND KNOWS ABOUT THAT FIGHT.....

by the grace of Shri Hari. Here is a pada of that leela.

'એક સમે હરિવનમાં ઉભા વેણ વાય રે,
લઈ મટુકી ગોપિકા મહી વેચવા જાય રે.
બેઉને તે મેળાપ થયો વનમાં એકાંત રે,
ગોપી સાથે ગુજ કરી ખાંતીલો ખાતે રે.
રસ ભરી રંગ રાડ થઈ વૃંદાવનની વાટે રે,
રાધિકાને રોકી રહ્યા હરિદાણને માટે રે.
રોષે ભરાણી રાધિકા બોલી વેણ અટારા રે,
તે માથે મારે નાથજી માર્યા મેણલા સારા રે.
સામ-સામાં સંવાદ થયા એકાંત ઠેકાણે રે,
એ લડાઈની વાત બ્રહ્માનંદ જાણે રે.'

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Jaljhilani Samaiya at Ahmedabad Temple

Lord Ganapatiji led a grand religious procession of the Jalhjilani festival and re-enacted the grand tradition founded by the first Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri.

H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri accompanied Lord Ganapatiji to grace this religious procession with a huge retinue of the Mahants, saints, celibates and devotees. Thousands of devotees thronged the temple to have darshan of the Poojan Archan being received by Lord Narnarayandev and Lord Ganapatiji in benign presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri.

The majestic procession walked through Lambeshwar Pol, relief road and reached Narayan Ghat amidst delightful showers of monsoon. The procession was welcomed heartily at our Narayanghat temple. The saints from our temple, helped Lord Ganapatiji to merge elemental form in sacred water of Sabarmati and Lord Thakorji had thereafter the water sports in holy water of Sabaramti. Prasadam of fresh cucumber was distributed to the devotees. The procession returned from the Narayanghat via same route and Lord Thakorji graced Shri Swaminarayan temple in benign company of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveyed to the devotees the blissful pleasure of Lord Shri Hari by presenting evening Aarti to Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. The prasadm of bananas was distributed thereafter to the devotees and guests. The events were organized decently by the Kothari Swami and S.N.N.D. Yuvam Mandla.

- Kothari Dharmprakashdas

Hindola and Satsang Sabha at Approach – Bapunagar Temple

The devotees at this temple have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by swinging festive Hindola of Lord Thakorji. Hindola festival was organized by the temple with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Mahant Swami Lakshmanjivandasji has earned the pleasure of Shriji Maharaj by inspiring and encouraging the devotees for this festive event. The Hindolas of various objects were designed by the saints and devotees and such new Hindola were presented everyday in the month of Hindola festival.

Evening satsang sessions are organized each Saturday between 9-15 and 10-45 p.m. to conduct Katha-Kirtan-Dhoon Satsang. Many youths are attracted to the Satsang activities of temple due to hearty iteraction from the saints. A meaningful one act play was presented by them at the evening sessions to promote de-addition movement. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgudnasji has favoured them by preaching Shikshapatri teachings. Lord Shri Krishna's birthday was celebrated at midnight of Janmashtami day in presence of saints and devotees.

- Gordhanbhai Sitapara

Idar Temple

The devotees at this place have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by swinging beautiful Hindolas of Lord Thakorji. The events were organized daily in the month of Hindoal Utsava. Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji has earned the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by inspiring devotees for these celebrations. Lord Shri Krishna's incarnation was celebrated on Janmashtami day.

Kukadia (Teh. Idar) Temple

Lord Narnarayandev has showered his blissful pleasure by gifting the temple to this small village. The temple belongs to Shri Narnarayandev Diocese. Lord Shri Krishna's birthday was celebrated here by the devotees. The rituals were conducted by the Brahmin priest Shri Gaurishankarbhai under enlightening guidance from the Mahant Swami of Idar temple. Lord Thakorji graced the beautifully decorated cradle and blessed the devotees at midninght. Hundreds of devotees were favoured by this devotion filled celebrations. *- Sadhu Satyasankalpdas*

Unava Temple exhibits 'Himalaya Darshan'

Most blissful view of the 'Himalaya Darshan' was presented here by the local S.N.N.D. Yuvak Mandal with the due blessing of H.H. Acharay Maharajshri. Hundreds of devotees have benedfitted by the darshan of this blissful presentation.

Slurimad Dashamskandha Parayan was conducted here in sacred month of Sharavan. The seat of the reader priest was graced jointly by Shastri Vraj Vallabhdasji and Sahstri Suvrtaswaroopdasji. *- Mahendra Bhagat.*

Karjisan Temple Organizes Constant Doon of Maha-Mantra

The constant Dhoon of 36 hours duration was organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. Parshada Jasubhai Bhagat has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the devotees for this devotional session of 36 hours duration. The Dhoon session was started at 7 hours of 11-9-2005 and was concluded at the 19 hours of next evening i.e. on 12-9-05. A large number of devotees have participated in constant Dhoon Programme. Thaal with community meals was served to the temple by Kothari Shri Manilal Chhagandas.

- Poojari Jasu Bhagat, Yogesh Patel

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Aroda (Junagaam)

Hindola Utsava and Janmashtami celebrations were organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events were organized by the saints and the devotees with the inspiration from Mahant Sami S.G. Jagadishprasadji (Idar Temple). Maha Mantra Dhoon was organized everyday during shravana and Lord Shri krishna's birth was celebrated on Janmashtami day.

- Kanubhai M. Patel

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Modasa

H.H. Acharya Mahara... 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri has graced this temple with his retinues of saints and Parsahdas to favour his Satsangi host Shri Shreyasbhai Kantilal Maheta (Advocate). H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and presented festive Aarti to Lord Thakorji. A special assembly was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharjshri graced the Sabha and received poojan Archan submitted by Shri K.B. Prajapati (Kothari), Shri Harshilbhai and Shri Shreyasbhai (Advocate). The enlightening discourses were delivered by the saints and the Sabha was ended with the hearty blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. *- Kothari*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Sirohi (Rajasthan)

Janmashtami was celebrated with devotional fervour by celebrating birthday of Lord Shri Krishna. The celebrations were organized by Swami Aksharaviharidasji and the devotees, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharjshri. Late night Dhoon, Kirtans and Katha Satsang were presented to celebrate birthday of Lord Shri Krishna and Birthday Aarti was presented to Lord Thakorji. The members of Shri N.N.D.Y.M. have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service. *- Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal*

Educational news from H.H. Acharya Shri Devendraprasadji Kelavani Mandal

A city level instant painting competetion was organized at the foot path of Gujarat College adjacent to the memorial of Kinariwala. About 1200 students and 80 schools have participated in this creative programme and Our Sahajanand School was the one among the participating schools.

Following students have earned credit in this programme :

Sapan B. Shah IV A
Mithil P. Dave IV A

Following students have earned credit in science projects.

Sukeshi Bhatt
Nishant Thakkar
Anjan Desai
Divyang Patel

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveys hearty blessings to the students and teachers.

Nava Vadaj

Shravan Hindolas were presented here to Lord Thakorji with the due consent of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Lord Shri Krishna birthday was celebrated at mid night hours by presenting Dhoon Kirtans and birthday Aarti. Sunday Satsang Sabhas are organized regularly at the residence of the host devotees and Dhoon, Kirtan and Katha Aarti are presented at the Satsang Sabha to please Lord Thakroji. *-Patel Shambhubhai Hirjibhai*

MULI REGION

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Muli

Chaturmaas Katha Satsang was organized here at the prasadi Mandapam in benig presence of Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. The events were organized by Mahant Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji and Mahant Swami Balkrishnadasji with the due blessings of H.H. Achaya Maharajshri. The seat of the reader priest of the daily Parayan was graced jointly by S.G. Shastri Nityaprakashdasji and S.G. Swami Vrindavandasji. Devotees have benefited by this feast of eternal knowledge. The Katha Sessions were concluded most religiously. Brahmin priest of the temple Shri Jitubhai Gor has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by conducting ritual side of the concluding ceremonies. The events were organized by the saints and devotees under able guidance from Mahant Swami Narendraprasaddasji and Kothari Swami Jayprakashdasji. *- Mehul Bhagat*

Invocation of idols of God at Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Surendranagar

A splendid temple adorning five majestic domes has been constructed at Surendranagar with the grace of Lord Shri Harikrishna Maharaj of Muli Dhaam and with the due blessing of H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. This blissful abode of God is ready to welcome God at its sanctum sanctorum. The temple shall be under administration of Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev dwelling at Muli Dhaam.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri has consented to invoke God on auspicious Thusday dated 17-11-05. The week, preceding 17th November, shall be celebrated by conducting a week long parayan satsang of Shri Satsangi Jivan (dated 11-11-05), Shri Hari Yaag, cultural activities and devotional sessions. Devotees are invited heartily to participate in these devotional programmes.

Swami Premjviandasji
Mahant Swami,
Shri Swaminarayan Mandir,
Jawahar Chowk, Surendranagar

Swarna Kalasha Mahotsava at Narsipara – Dhrangadhra Temple

Swarna Kalash Panchabdi Mahotsava was organized here at the temple with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. S.G. Mahant Swami Shrijiprakashdasji, his disciple Shastri Ghanshyamjeevandasji and the trustees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari for inspiring the devotees. These week long celebrations (5-8-05 to 11-8-05) have restreng thened devotional fervour in this area.

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was organized on this religious occasion. The seat of the reader – priest was graced jointly by Shastri Viveksagardasji and Shastri Vasudevcharandasji. Maha Mantra-Japa sessions were conducted daily during this festive week. Blood donation camp and medical aid camps were organized with prior notice for convenience of participants.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this place on 10-8-05. A colourful welcome procession was organized on this occasion to receive and welcome H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H Acharya Maharajshri graced the inner temple on auspicious 11th day of August and presented Mahabhishekam to Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam

Maharaj, amdist the chants of vedic hymns. The holy-fire, constant Dhoon and Parayan Katha were concluded thereafter and auspicious gold pot was installed ceremoniously by him to mark this historical event.

Occasional Satsang asabha was organized to sing praises of Lord Shriji Maharaj. The saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Jetalpur, Vartal, Gadhada and other places have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their enlightening discourses. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and blessed his devotees.

Devout families of Shri Jayantibhai Gordhanbhai Patel (New Jersey) and Shri Rasikbhai Gordhnabhai Patel (Dharampur, Kadi) have earned the pleasure of Shriji Maharaj by hosting these religious celebrations. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has conveyed his hearty pleasure to the devout families. *-Viveksagardas.*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Surendranagar

Aartistic Hindolas of various objects were presented to Lord Thakorji during religious days of Hindola Mahotsava. Hundreds of devotees have benefited by these events. Hindola designers were guided extensively by Shastri Premvallabhdasji and Shastri Satyaswaroopdasji. The youth of SNNDYM have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their dedicated service.

- Shailendra Jhala

Tapovan Temple, Limbdi

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was conducted here at the temple to do devotion of Shravana. The feast of devotional knowledge was organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

- Shri Ghanshya Mandal

OVERSEAS

Our New Temple at NewJersey Colonia Celebrates installation and invocation rituals

Benedictory resoltues were made earlier by the 6th and 7th Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharajshri of Shri Narnaraydnev Diocese to construct Swaminarayan temple at Colonia of N.J. Local devotees in USA have acted sincerely to get the resolute materialized. The land was procured with the grace of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan and soon after that, the splendid temple has bene constructed by active participation of non-resident Satsangis. The temple and its services are under ISSO USA.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri favoured his satsangis and consented to invoke God on auspicious Sunday dated 4-9-05.

Week long celebrations were organized on this most auspicious occasion and Shri Hari Yaag (2-9-05 to 4-9-05) and Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan (28-8-05 to 3-9-05) were organized on this occasion, besides Shri Krishna Jamostsava, shoba yatra, cultural programmes and medical camp.

Lord Shri Krishna's birthday was celebrated on auspcious day of Janmashtami dated 27-8-05 in colour of devotion and the events of four hours duration preceeded the birthday Aarti of midnight. Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was inaugurated on Sunday dated 28-8-05 at 4-30 with the religious precassion of the sacred scripture. Devout Satsangis Shri Bharatbhai and Ketkiben Shah, Smt. Hansaben B. Neelaben Shah, Pravinbhai, Ushaben Shah, Shri Rohitbhai and Mandakiniben Pandya, Shri Bipinbhai and Jaiminiben Kachhia, Shri Manubhai and Ansuyaben Bhavsar and Shri Janardanbhai Shastri have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Bhagwat Parayan. The devout hosts have served Poojan and Aarti to the sacred scripture and reader-priests.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri, Respected Gadiwalashri, H.H. Lalji Maharajshri and Respected Shriraja graced the celebrations. The presence of Dharmkul has added divine majesty in these religious celebrations.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Yagyashala in early morning of 2-9-05, and by his blessed hands he invoked holy fire amidst the chants of vedic hymns. Vedic scholar Ishwarbhai Shukla acted as the principal priest and conducted rituals of the holy fire.

A grand shobha Yatra of two hour duration was orgnazied on Saturday (dated 3-9-05) at 2 o'clock noon. Lord Thakorji was accompanied by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Narnarayandev Diocese, H.H. Lalji Maharajshri and a retinue of the saints to lead the Shobha Yatra. The groups of the saints and the householder devotees sang devotional songs with tunes of instrumental music. It was a majestic Shoba Yatra witnessed even by western community. They were highly impressed by devotional fervour and inbuilt discipline of this Satsang. Respected Gadiwalashri graced the shobha-yatra and favoured her femle satsangis by her blissful Darshan to them. Shobha Yatra was concluded at 4 o'clock evening. Pyramid and other acrobatic skills were displayed by the younger generations of the satsangis.

The main gate of the temple complex wa inaugurated ceremoniously by H.H. Achary Maharajshri and satsang was favoured by His holines by blissful presence of the 7th Descendent heir of Lor Shri Hari. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the assembl to bless the western world. H.H. Acharya Maharajsh was received with due honour by the V.V.I.P. guest Mayor, Police chief and leading personalities. H.H Acharya Maharajshri blessed the assembly and conveye his hearty thanks to Hon'ble Mayor, Police chief and th contractors. Auspicious event of the marriage of Goddes Rukminiji was celebrated at evening.

The evening session of the satsang dated 3-9-05 wa organized amidst devotional pleasure by the saints an householder satsangis, in benign presence of H.H Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. Respecte Senior Gadiwalashri, H.H. Achary 1008 Shr Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri, Respecte Gadiwalashri, H.H. Lalji Maharajshri, Respecte ShriRaja, Respected Binduraja and Shri Prafulkumar, Shr Suvratakumar and Shri Saumyakumar. Thus, the greate Dharm family was present at the temple to favour th devotees. Devotees from U.K. U.S.A. and other countrie have benefited by this blissful Darshan of Dharm family

The devotees have awaited anxiously the day of 4 9-05 as it was the auspicious day of invocation rituals

H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji with H.H. Lalji 1008 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple at 8-00 a.m. and did poojan of Lord Thakorji with vedic rituals and invoked God by concentrating meditatively in the eyes of the idol. This was a majestic darshan for the devotees. The trio form of Lord Shriji Maharaj Himself was invoking God at the temple. tranquil bliss of the divine abode pervaded the temple.

Shri Hari Yaag was concluded most ceremoniously at 11-00 a.m. when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri offered concluding sacrifice of coconute. Brahmin Scholar priests received thereafter, the cash gifts and donations from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the inner temple and presented full-dress Aarti and Annakut to receive favour of God for his devotees. The ceremonies were concluded with the special assembly. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha with H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. Poojan-Archan-Aarti were presented to the trio form of Shri Hari at the special assembly. The Sabha was addressed by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji. Mahant Swami admired the devotional fervour of the young generation of Satsang and in his rousing call he asked them to adhre firmly to the teachings of Shikshapatri with absolute faith and trust in Acharya, God, Scriptrues and saints.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the devotees and praised their devotion, faith and trust in Shriji Maharaj.

The seat of the principal reader-priest was graced by Scholar Shastri Yogendrabhai (Pij wala). Yogendrabhai has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by his enlightening discourses on Shrimad Bhagwat.

Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdasji and Poojari Swami Jayakrishnadasji have extended advance service of one month duration to arrange ritual side of the invocation ceremonies. S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji and S.G. Madhav Swami were come much earlier to arrange and supervise the works related to throne and idols of God in accordance to religious scriptures and the Vedas.

A large retinue of the senior saints inclusive of enlightened saints S.G. Swami Harikrishnadasji, Dev Swami (Ex-Mahant Dholka), Swami Haripriyadasji, Swami Purnaprakashdasji, Swami Shastri Keshavcharandasji, Madhav Swami, Swami Shastri Hariprakashdasji, Gyan Swami, Ghanshyam Swami and others were come from far flung places like Chicago, Detroit, L.A., Huston, Florida, Boston and Vehocan.

Invocation assembly was conducted by S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji. The Haribhaktas from all the Chapter of ISSO were presented here by setting aside their householder duties. Meal service and community Kitchen were managed efficiently by the Satsangis from Chicago.

Salient features of these historical events :

- H.H Acharya Maharajshri has embraced the idols Lord Narnarayndev and Ghanshyam Maharaj to open the gate of emancipation at this Colonia temple.
- Two hundred patients have received specialized medical treatment at the free medical camp, organized by this temple.
- Addison–Colonai has received highest number of devotees at the invocation celebrations compared to other places in USA.
- This is the first overseas temple where Lord Narnarayandev dwells at Gold throne and in His idol form.
- Three descendent heir have invoked collectively this idol.

- Shastri Suryaprakashdasji.

Dharmkul graces Chicago Temple

The Dharmkul has graced this temple on hearty invitiation and insistance from Mahant Swami Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji. Dharmkul has favoured his faithful Satsangis by their benign presence at the temple.

S.G. Nishkulanand Swami has narrated glory and majesty of Dharmkul in his sacred book – Purushottam Prakash :

વચન દ્વારે વસ્યા અમે એમાં રે, તમે ફેર જાણશોમાં તેમા રે,
અમે એમા એ છે અમ માંઈ રે, એમ સમજો ભાઈ-ભાઈ રે.

In this 'Unique' and never before visit, The trio form of Shri Hari – the 6th, 7th and the 8th descendant son and heir of Shriji Maharaj have graced the temple collectively and together. This was a most majestic and rare blissful darshan for the devotees. Almost all local Satsangis were come to the temple to enlighten themselves by this Darshan.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and presented Aarti to Lord Thakorji. His holiness then graced with his two another forms the assembly, organized on this special occasion and the saints and Haribhaktas honoured them by presenting poojan Aarti. The assembly began with the Jai Jaikar of Swaminarayan Bhagwan and H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Both the Gadiwalashri received Poojan-Archan-Aarti from their lady Satsangis at the separate meeting. Enlightening discourses were delivered by Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji, Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji, Swami Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji, Poojari Swami Harinandandasji, President Shri Jagdishbhai and Shri Vivek Brahmbhatt.

The aspirations of the devotees to contribute towards the benedictory resolute of Swaminarayan Museum, were materialized at this juncture. The satsang was blessed heartily by both the descendan heirs and Acharyas of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

The Dasham Skandha of Shrimad Bhagwat was recited daily in Shravana by Poojari Swami Harinandandasji. Lord Shri Krishna's Birthday – Janmashtami – was celebrated with special Satsang and birthday Aarti. *- Shanikumar Joshi*

Buwie Merriland (Washington D.C. ISSO Chapter)

The Satsang session of three hours duration was conducted at late evening on Saturday dated 27-8-05 and Kirtan, Dhoon, Katha, Vachanamrit teachings and Thaal-Aarti were presented to celebrate Janmashtami. The Satsang activities are progressing steadily with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

- Kanubhai Patel

આપણા વ્રતોત્સવો (તા. ૧૧-૧૦-૨૦૦૫ થી ૧૫-૧૧-૨૦૦૫)

તિથિ	વાર	તા.	શુભાશુભ યોગો અને તહેવારો
આસો સુદ			
૮	મંગળ	૧૧	શ્રી સરસ્વતીજી બલિદાન, મહાઅષ્ટમી - દુર્ગાષ્ટમી.
૯	બુધ	૧૨	વિજયા દશમી, દશેરા, શ્રી સરસ્વતીજી વિસર્જન, શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ જયંતી, મહાનવમી.
૧૦/૧૧	ગુરુ	૧૩	શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવ પીઠાધિશ્વર પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્યશ્રી ૧૦૦૮ શ્રી કોશલેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજશ્રીનો પ્રાકટ્યોત્સવ (સં. ૨૦૨૮ અમદાવાદ), (અમેરિકામાં I.S.S.O.ની સ્થાપના), પંચક બેસે બપોરે ૧-૩૨.
૧૨	શુક્ર	૧૪	પાંશાંકુંશાં એકાદશી ઉપવાસ, ગોપીનાથજી મહારાજનો પાટોત્સવ ગઢપુર (સં. ૧૮૮૫), પંચક, કલકતા મંદિરમાં શ્રી લાલજી મહારાજનો પાટોત્સવ.
૧૪	રવિ	૧૬	શરદ ઉત્સવ, શ્રીહરિને દૂધ સાકર યુક્ત પૌંવા ધરાવવા.
૧૫	સોમ	૧૭	મુકુટોત્સવ પૂનમ, કાર્તિકસ્નાન આરંભ, ગ્રસ્તોદય ખંડગ્રાસ ચંદ્ર ગ્રહણ (ગ્રહણ અંગે વિગત પાછળ જુઓ), તુલામાં સૂર્ય.
આસો વદ			
૨	બુધ	૧૯	બાવળા મંદિરનો પાટોત્સવ.
૫	શનિ	૨૨	સારંગપુર શ્રીકષ્ટભંજન હનુમાનજીનો પ્રતિષ્ઠોત્સવ (૧૯૦૫) સ્થાપન કર્તા અ.મુ.સ.ગુ. ગોપાળાનંદ સ્વામી.
૮	મંગળ	૨૫	કાલાષ્ટમી, વૃશ્ચિકમાં બુધ, મંગળ પુષ્ય નક્ષત્ર છે. જેથી ચોપડાંનો ઓર્ડર આપવો.
૧૧	શુક્ર	૨૮	રમા એકાદશી ઉપવાસ.
૧૨	શનિ	૨૯	વાઘબારશ.
૧૩	રવિ	૩૦	**ધનતેરશ, શ્રી લક્ષ્મીપૂજન**, યમદિપદાન, પ્રદોષ.
૧૪	સોમ	૩૧	**કાળીચૌદશ, શ્રીહનુમાનજીનું પૂજન**, શિવરાત્રી.
૧૪	મંગળ	૧	નવેમ્બર માસ શરૂ, સવારે ૬-૫૧ પછી અમાવાસ્યા બેસે છે જેથી **શ્રી શારદાપૂજન-ચોપડાપૂજન** આ દિવસે આખો દિવસ થઈ શકે.
૩૦/૧	બુધ	૨	દર્શ-૩૦ અમાવાસ્યા, એકમ (પડવાનો) ક્ષય છે સવારે ૬-૫૪, અમાસ ઉતરી જાય છે જેથી **સંવત ૨૦૬૨નું નૂતનવર્ષ પ્રારંભ, શ્રી ગોવર્ધન પૂજન-અન્નકૂટ-ઉત્સવ** કરવો, હેમલંબીનામ સંવત્સર આરંભ.
કારતક સુદ			
૨	ગુરુ	૩	ભાઈબીજ-ચંદ્રદર્શન, વિછુંડો બે. સ. ૮-૩૬.
૫	રવિ	૬	**લાભ પાંચમ**, કાંકરિયા (અમદાવાદ) સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિરમાં શ્રી બાલસ્વરૂપ કષ્ટભંજન દેવનો સમૈયો, ડાકોર મંદિરનો પાટો.
૧૦	શુક્ર	૧૧	શ્રી ભક્તિમાતાનો અ.વા. (સં. ૧૮૪૮ અયોધ્યા), પંચક
૧૧	શનિ	૧૨	દેવ પ્રબોધિની એકાદશી ઉપવાસ, તુલસી વિવાહ આરંભ, પંચક, ચાતુર્માસ સમાપ્ત.
૧૨	રવિ	૧૩	વડતાલ શ્રી લક્ષ્મીનારાયણાદિક દેવ, (સં. ૧૮૮૧)નો પાટોત્સવ, અમદાવાદ શ્રીરંગમહોલ ઘનશ્યામ મહારાજનો પ્રતિષ્ઠોત્સવ (૧૯૪૨), પંચક ઉતરે રાત્રે ૨-૧, પ્રદોષ.
૧૩	સોમ	૧૪	મકનસર (મોરબી) મંદિરનો પાટોત્સવ.
૧૪/૧૫		મંગળ	૧૫ મુકુટોત્સવ પૂનમ, તુલસી વિવાહ સમાપ્ત, દેવદિવાળી, શ્રી ભક્તિમાતાનો સાયંકાળે જન્મોત્સવ (૧૭૯૮) કાર્તિક સ્નાન સમાપ્ત, તુલસી વિવાહ સમાપ્ત, વૈકુંઠ ચતુર્દશી.

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad : Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad : Senior saints and priest of this Shrine S.G. Narayanpriyadasji (Guru : Late Chitara Swami Baldevprasadasji) ascended to divine abode of Akshardham (on date 6-9-05 at the age of one hundred years) while chanting emancipating name of Lord Shriji Maharaj.

Muli : Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Muli : Our youthful saints Bhaktiprakashdasji Swami (Guru : Swami Prabhucharandasji) ascended to divine abode of Akshardham (15-9-05) amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

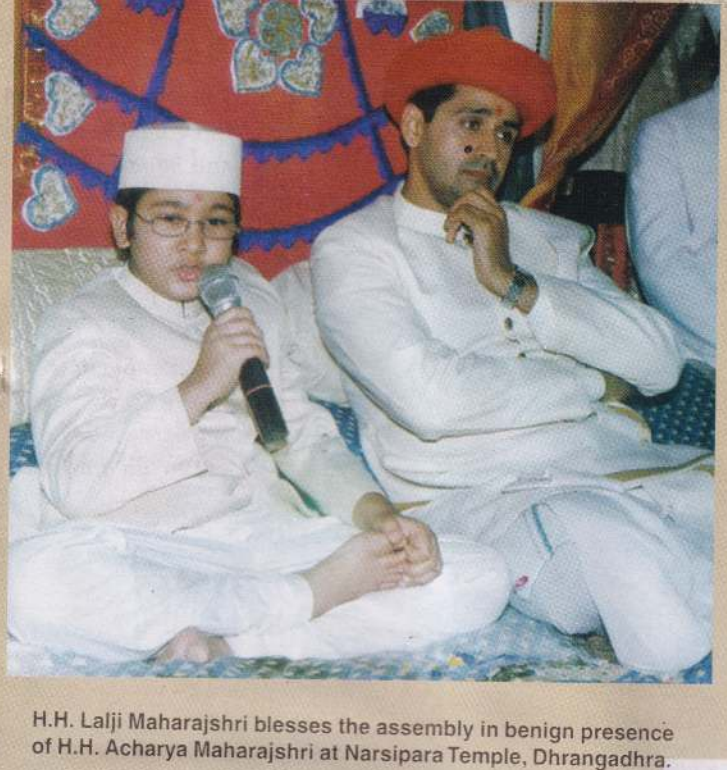
Dholka : Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Ladies), Dholka : Samkhya Yogi saintsly lady respected Manekba ascended to divine abode of Akshardham amidst blissful chants of Shri Hari's blissful name.

Ahmedabad : Senior Satsangi and faithful devotee of Shri Hari, Shri Vitthalbhai Somchand Shah (Advocate) passed away (13-9-05) to Akshadrham amidst chants of Maha Mantra. May Shri Hari blees him with bliss of divine abode.

Ahmedabad, Saraspur : Devout soul Surdasbhai Bipinbhai Shah passed away to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shri Hari's name.

Balasinor : Devotee Rajubhai Muljibhai Patel (Younger brother of Jayantibhai M. Patel) passed away (19-9-05) to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shriji Maharaj's name.

Dhrangadhra : Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, (Ladies), Dhrangadhra : Samkhayogi saintly lady Hetalba (Guru Samkhya Yogi Gauriba) ascended to divine abode of Shri Hari (18-9-05) amidst Maha Mantra Chants.



H.H. Lalji Maharajshri blesses the assembly in benign presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at Narsipara Temple, Dhrangadhra.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents Abhishekam Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj dwelling Narsipara Temple, Dhrangadhra.



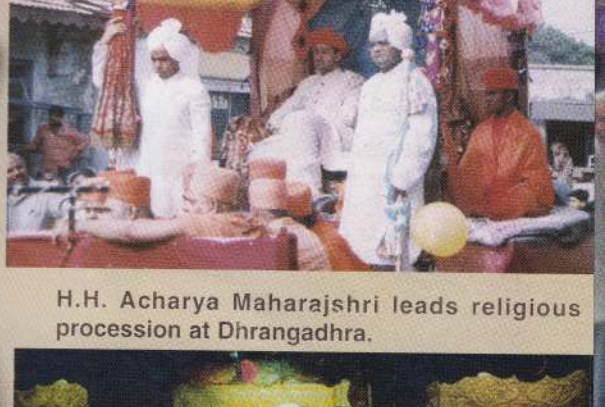
ANSWERING A 'DESP

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

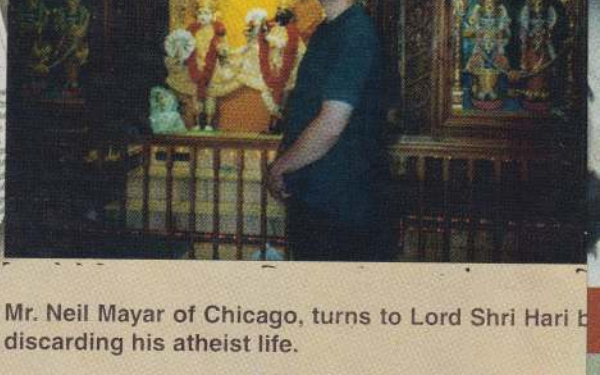
Temple now a haven for Hindus

Transformation of ex-synagogue shows growing presence of Asian-Indians in county

News coverage of the invocation festivities. (Colonai Temple, ISSO, USA)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri leads religious procession at Dhrangadhra.



Mr. Neil Mayar of Chicago, turns to Lord Shri Hari b discarding his atheist life.



The Divine Trio – the three descendant sons and heirs of Shri Hari - graced U.S.A. and invoked the idols of Lord Narnarayandev – at our Colonia temple (ISSO, USA). This is the first temple in USA, where Lord Narnarayandev dwells in His idol form.

H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri blesses Satsang Sabha held at olonia temple, in benign resence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.



raful Kharsani